

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CPR-01 /016 W  
-----059395 101833Z /43

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6012

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0795

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: OAS, SHUM, PPDC, UY  
SUBJECT: GOU ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER

REF: STATE 061182

1. FONMIN ROVIRA IS OUT OF TOWN TODAY (MARCH 10), BE-  
CASUE PRESIDENT AND MOST OF GOVERNMENT ARE HOLDING COURT  
IN INTERIOR CITY TO COMMEMORATE ITS FOUNDING. I AM SEEKING  
APPOINTMENT WITH ROVIRA AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO CARRY  
UT REFTEL INSTRUCTION. HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE  
ADVANTAGE OF THIS DELAY TO REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT REFLECT  
ON AND RECONSIDER THIS INSTRUCTION.

2. THE PROBLEM HERE IS NOT THE PRESSURES TO DIVULGE CON-  
TENTS AND EXPLAIN THE DELAY THAT MIGHT RESULT IF THE  
EXISTENCE OF THE CARTER REPLY IS CONFIRMED BUT RATHER THE  
VERY REAL AND PRESENT PRESSURE NOW ON BOTH GOVERNMENTS  
TO PUT TO REST WIDELY HELD SUSPICIONS THAT (A)  
PRESIDENT CARTER HAS INSULTED MENDEZ BY FAILING TO REPLY TO  
HIM, AND (B) PRESIDENT CARTER HAS BROKEN OFF THE PRESI-  
DENTIAL DIALOGUE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE NEED TO DEAL WITH  
THIS PROBLEM WAS IN FACT THE BASIS FOR OUR STRONGLY  
URGING THAT A REPLY BE SENT. IT IS DEFINITELY CONTRARY TO OUR  
INTEREST TO LET STAND ANY SUSPICION THAT WE HAVE SNUBBED  
MENDEZ. MOREOVER, IT SERVES OUR INTEREST AND CONTRIBUTES  
TO OUR HUMAN RIGHTS OBJECTIVES HERE IF WE ARE KNOWN  
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PUBLICLY TO BE ENGATED IN PRESIDENTIAL-LEVEL DIALOGUE  
DEALING WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM.

3. IF THE EXISTENCE OF THE CARTER REPLY IS CONFIRMED BY THE  
GOU WE FORESEE NO IRRESISTABLE PRESSURES TO DIVULGE ITS  
CONTENTS OR EXPLAIN THE DELAY. THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PRESI-  
DENTIAL DIALOGUE IN GENERAL IS ALREADY PERCEIVED BY THE



PUBLIC IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO BE HUMAN RIGHTS. ALTHOUGH THE GOU DID NOT COMMENT ON THE CONTENTS OF THE MENDEZ LETTER, EVERYONE WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS A REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF THE URUGUAYAN VIII OASGA INVITATION. SINCE OUR NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO THIS WAS COMMUNICATED BY OUR NO VOTE, IT WILL BE READILY ASSUMED THAT CARTER'S REPLY MERELY CONFIRMS THIS FACT. WE WILL, THEREFORE, BE DEALING ONLY WITH NORMAL MEDIA AND PUBLIC CURIOSITY ABOUT WHAT PRESIDENTS SAY TO ONE ANOTHER IN PERSONAL MESSAGES, WHICH NEITHER GOVERNMENT SHOULD FEEL HARD PRESSED TO SATISFY. THE QUESTION OF "WHY THE DELAY?" IS CLEARLY SECONDARY TO THE LARGER QUESTION OF "WHY NO RESPONSE AT ALL?" WHICH PRESENTLY CONFRONTS. IF THE LATTER IS ANSWERED BY ACKNOWLEDGMENT THAT A REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO AVOID BEING DRAWN INTO AN EXPLANATION OF THE FORMER. AS FOR A LEAK OF THE CONTENTS, THREE LETTERS HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS AND NO LEAKS OCCURRED EITHER HERE OR IN WASHINGTON -- A GOOD RECORD. WE SEE NO REASON TO FEAR THAT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE FOURTH LETTER CANNOT BE EQUALLY PROTECTED BY BOTH PARTIES.

4. FINALLY, I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT ROVIRA CAN ACCEDE TO A REQUEST NOT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MERE EXISTENCE OF THE CARTER REPLY. MENDEZ AND ROVIRA ARE ON THE SPOT. THEY CANNOT CONTINUE TO SUFFER THE EMBARRASSMENT ARISING FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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A PUBLIC BELIEF THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO REPLY. THEY WOULD ALSO FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY WE WISHED TO AVOID SUCH AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE FACTORS NOTED ABOVE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: I THEREFORE REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT AMEND REFTEL INSTRUCTION TO LIMIT MY APPROACH TO ROVIRA TO STRONGLY REITERATING OUR DESIRE (A) THAT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE LETTER BE PRESERVED BY BOTH PARTIES, (B) THAT WE AVOID ANY COMMENT ON ITS CONTENTS, AND (C) THAT WE NOT BE DRAWN INTO ANY EXPLANATION OF THE DELAY. SINCE I MAY BE ABLE TO SEE ROVIRA AROUND NOON LOCAL TIME SATURDAY, MARCH 11, A REPLY BEFORE THAT TIME WOULD BE APPRECIATED.  
CHEEK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3374110  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GOU ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PPDC, UY, OAS, (CARTER, JIMMY)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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